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CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

Mo-6323/STA-151

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/831567  
To be Assigned

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

PCT/EP99/08373

03 November 1999 (3.11.99)

13 November 1998 (13.11.98)

TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR PRODUCING WOLFRAM CARBIDES BY GAS-PHASE CARBURETION

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US 1) Gerhard Gille; 2) Benno Gries; 3) Jorg Bredthausen

Applicant hereby submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
- ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
  - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
- ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
- ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
- ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
- ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

## Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☒ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information:

PTO Form 1449 and references listed therein; four pages of drawings containing Figures 1-6

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 5) <b>To be Assigned</b> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">09/831567</span>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO <b>PCT/EP99/08373</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>Mo-6323/STA-151</b>	
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21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a) (2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$1000.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$860.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$710.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$690.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$100.00  <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
				\$	860.00
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	9 -20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$	0.00
Independent claims	2 -3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$	0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$	270.00
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$	1,130.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				+	0.00
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$	1,130.00
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$	1,130.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	40.00
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$	1,170.00
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a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 13-3848 in the amount of \$ 1,170.00 to cover the above fees.  
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card  
 information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR  
 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  Diderico van Eyl Bayer Corporation Patent Department 100 Bayer Road Pittsburgh, PA 15205-9741 USA	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">           SIGNATURE  <hr/>           Diderico van Eyl            NAME  <hr/>           38,641            REGISTRATION NUMBER  <hr/> </div>
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4/PRTS

- 1 -

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 MAY 2001

09/831567

Process for the preparation of tungsten carbides by gas phase carburization

The invention relates to a process for the direct preparation of carbides from tungsten-containing compounds by means of an atmosphere containing carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

The reaction of tungsten-containing compounds, particularly tungsten oxides, with carbon monoxide, and optionally a mixture of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide at elevated temperature, is inherently well known.

US patent 4,172,808 discloses a process in which  $WO_3$  is converted to tungsten carbide powders at temperatures from 590°C to 680°C in a stream of carbon monoxide containing 5% to 10% carbon dioxide. The product still contains 2% oxygen so it has not reacted completely. Moreover, the product has on its surface an unspecified amount of free carbon. According to US-A 4,172,808, the oxygen content is acceptable for catalyst applications and the superficial free carbon is required for a high catalyst activity. Tungsten carbide powders of this kind are unsuitable, however, for use as a hard solid in hardmetals because exact control of the carbon content to within a few hundredths of a percent is important in this case.

According to US patent 5,230,729, gas phase carburization by means of a  $CO_2/CO$  mixture is described for a partial stage of the preparation of fine-particle WC-Co powder for hardmetal production. According to this patent, the tungsten precursor compound  $Co(en)_3WO_4$  is reduced initially in a hydrogen-containing stream of inert gas to highly porous Co-W metal, then carburized in the carbon monoxide gas stream to WC-Co and free carbon is then removed in a  $CO_2/CO$  gas stream. Carburization temperatures from 700°C to 850°C are used in this case.

US patent 5,230,729 also refers to a prior art according to which carburization to WC-Co powder with carbon activities from 0.35 to 0.95 was evidently carried out without the intermediate step of hydrogen reduction to Co-W. The fact that, in view

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of the substantial carbon monoxide decomposition brought about catalytically even at low temperatures due to the presence of cobalt, considerable absorption of carbon by the WC-Co starting substances takes place, leading to a metastable intermediate phase, is regarded as a disadvantage. As a result, very long reaction times are required.

In view of the absence of a catalytic effect of cobalt, the teachings regarding gas phase carburization for the preparation of WC-Co are not transferable to the preparation of WC powders.

Extensive research was disclosed by LEMAITRE, VIDICK, DELMON in Acta Chim. Acad. Sci., Hung. 111 (1982) pp. 449-463 and Journal of Catalysis 99 (1986) pp. 415-427 for the preparation of tungsten carbide powders by gas phase carburization, wherein both carbon monoxide and mixtures of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide with carbon dioxide contents from 9% to 50% were used in the temperature range from 772°C to 850°C. Both powder with high proportions of free carbon and highly under-carburized tungsten carbide powder or  $W_2C$  powder were obtained; in some cases, reoxidation to tungsten oxide was also observed. A carburization temperature of 750°C is regarded as optimal.

A combined summary of the prior art seems to be that gas phase carburization with pure carbon monoxide at temperatures above 850°C leads to a coating of the precursor compound with graphite-like carbon, in view of the Boudouard equilibrium, with the result that the reaction is inhibited or brought to a standstill and hence long reactions which are not feasible, at least on an industrial scale, are required. On the other hand, the tests of the prior art disclosed seem to prove that, if  $CO_2/CO$  carburization gas mixtures are used with  $CO_2$  contents which, at carburization temperature, roughly correspond to the position of the Boudouard equilibrium or above, complete carburization is not possible.

It has now been found that substantially complete carburization of tungsten precursor compounds is obtained if, in the temperature range from 800°C to 1,000°C, preferably 850°C to 950°C, the carburization gas used has a carbon dioxide content, based on carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, which is above the Boudouard equilibrium at carburization temperature, i.e. has a carbon activity of less than 1. If, however, the carbon dioxide content is too high, incomplete carburization will take place and even incomplete reduction. According to the invention, the carbon activity of the CO/CO<sub>2</sub> mixture should be preferably from 0.4 to 0.9, particularly preferably from 0.5 to 0.85.

The relationship between the relative proportions of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> in the carburization gas on the one hand and the carbon activity  $a_c$  on the other hand is calculated from the following formula:

$$\ln a_c = \ln (p_{CO}^2 / p_{CO_2}) + 20715/T - 21.24,$$

wherein  $p_{CO}$  and  $p_{CO_2}$  denotes the partial pressure of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> respectively in each case and T denotes the absolute temperature in K. The Boudouard equilibrium corresponds to a carbon activity  $a_c = 1$ .

Due to the fact that the carbon activity during the process is kept below one, the separation of elemental carbon is rendered thermodynamically impossible, so the carbon content of the tungsten carbide obtained can be controlled precisely and in a reproducible manner. On the other hand, at temperatures above 800°C, preferably 850°C, the CO<sub>2</sub> equilibrium concentration is already so low that even if the equilibrium concentration is exceeded, complete and sufficiently rapid reduction and carburization of the tungsten precursor compound takes place. Particularly preferably, the CO<sub>2</sub>/CO partial pressure ratio should not exceed 1:8.

The process according to the invention is surprising against the background of the phase diagram of the WO<sub>3</sub>-WO<sub>2</sub>-W-W<sub>2</sub>C-WC-C system disclosed in the publication

Journal of Catalysis 99, p.430, Fig. 5, because, according to the phase diagram, the phase  $W_2C$  should form above  $800^{\circ}C$  due to carburization with a  $CO_2/CO$  mixture with a  $CO_2$  content above the Boudouard equilibrium, and carburization to  $WC$  should not take place, at any rate within industrially feasible reaction times.

5

The present invention provides, therefore, a process for the preparation of refractory metal carbides by gas phase carburization of tungsten powder and/or suitable tungsten precursor compound powders at temperatures above  $850^{\circ}C$ , which is characterised in that the carburizing gas phase used is a  $CO_2/CO$  mixture with a  $CO_2$  content which is above the Boudouard equilibrium content corresponding to the carburization temperature.

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The gas phase used is preferably one which, apart from unavoidable traces of nitrogen, argon and helium, is composed exclusively of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide.

15

In order to maintain the preselected  $CO_2$ - $CO$  ratio, carbon dioxide formed is drawn off during reduction and carburization. This may be carried out by introducing carbon monoxide into the carburization reactor as a function of the  $CO_2$  content of the gas phase, or by flushing the reactor with the gas phase which has the preselected  $CO_2$ - $CO$  ratio.

20

The carburization temperature is preferably from  $900^{\circ}C$  to  $950^{\circ}C$ .

The  $CO_2$  content of the  $CO_2$ - $CO$  mixture is preferably below 8 mole % in the temperature range from  $850^{\circ}C$  to  $900^{\circ}C$  and below 4 mole % in the temperature range above  $900^{\circ}C$ .

25

Carburization at carburization temperature is carried out preferably over a period from 4 to 10 hours, particularly preferably over a period from 5 to 8 hours. Within the context of the process according to the invention, tungsten oxide powders are

30

used preferably as the carbide precursor. The process according to the invention is particularly preferred if an upstream reduction of oxides or other precursor compounds to the metal is avoided.

- 5 If other tungsten precursor compounds are used, these are decomposed to the oxide preferably in an upstream calcining step. This has the advantage that the carburizing gas is not contaminated by decomposition products and may therefore be recycled.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention, the tungsten carbides  
10 obtained according to the process of the invention undergo a heat treatment at 1,150°C to 1,800°C after carburization. The temperature during the subsequent heat treatment is preferably 1,350°C to 1,550°C, particularly preferably up to 1,450°C. The thermal after-treatment may be carried out, for example, in a sliding-batt kiln for a period from 1 to 60 minutes, preferably 25 to 50 minutes. Optionally, the heat  
15 treatment may be carried out with the addition of carbon-containing compounds.

Sintered parts with homogeneous structures and a high degree of hardness may be prepared from the fine-particle carbide powders obtainable according to the invention, without the need for intensive work up by grinding. Sintered hardmetal  
20 hardnesses obtained are superior to those of commercial grades with the same binder contents. This is also due to the fact that the carbides obtained according to the invention exhibit little agglomeration and are present in a virtually uniform particle size so that the tendency to secondary grain growth during sintering is insignificant. Particularly sinter-stable carbide powders are obtained by the thermal after-treatment  
25 because crystal lattice defects are largely removed by the thermal after-treatment

The present invention also provides tungsten carbide powders with a fine primary grain, expressed as coherence length, and high crystal quality, expressed by the lattice strain in %, lattice strain and coherence length being determined according to  
30 B.E. Warren and B.L. Averbach, Journal of Applied Physics, 21 (1950), pp. 595-

599. The tungsten carbide according to the invention is characterised by a relationship between coherence length  $x$  and lattice strain  $y$  according to the formula

$$y < (-4.06 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ nm}^{-1} \cdot x + 0.113) \% \quad (\text{I}).$$

Particularly preferred tungsten carbides according to the invention have a relationship between coherence length  $x$  and lattice strain  $y$  which fulfils the two conditions below:

$$y < (-2.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ nm}^{-1} \cdot x + 0.1025) \% \quad (\text{IIa}) \text{ and}$$

$$y < (-7.78 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ nm}^{-1} \cdot x + 0.1395) \% \quad (\text{IIb}).$$

The invention is explained in more detail below on the basis of the attached Figures.

Particularly preferred tungsten carbides are characterised by the relationship between coherence length  $x$  and lattice strain  $y$  according to the formula

$$y < (1 - x^2 / 3600 \text{ nm}^2)^{1/2} \cdot 0.075 \% \quad (\text{III}).$$

Tungsten carbides of this kind are obtained by heat treatment following carburization.

Fig. 1 shows the relationship between lattice strain and coherence length of the tungsten carbide powders preferred according to the invention, wherein the figures next to the measured values refer to the Examples given below, and the letters next to the measuring points outside the range according to the invention refer to products available on the market.

Fig. 2 shows an SEM photograph of a tungsten carbide powder prepared according to Example 2 below.



Fig. 3 shows an SEM photograph of the tungsten carbide powder prepared according to Example 3.

5 Fig. 4 shows an SEM photograph of the tungsten carbide powder prepared according to Example 4.

Fig. 5 and 6 show SEM photographs of hardmetals prepared using tungsten carbide powders according to Example 1 and 3 respectively.

10 The invention is explained in more detail below on the basis of Examples.

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## Examples

### Example 1

5 2 kg of WO<sub>3</sub> blue, 0.60 µm (ASTM B330), were heated to 500°C in a sinter furnace under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The furnace was then evacuated and changed to CO/CO<sub>2</sub> process gas, the CO/CO<sub>2</sub> ratio being 97/3, and heated to 920°C. The carbon activity was 0.65 at reaction temperature. The CO<sub>2</sub> formed during the reaction was removed continuously and replaced by CO, the CO/CO<sub>2</sub> ratio of 97/3 being kept constant. The reaction was completed after 8 hours so the furnace could then be cooled under N<sub>2</sub> to room temperature. About 1.5 kg of powder were obtained, which could be identified on the basis of x-ray diffraction as pure-phase tungsten carbide. The powder was characterised by the following analytical values:

15  $C_{\text{total}} = 5.90\%$                        $C_{\text{free}} < 0.02\%$   
O = 0.57%                      N = 0.06%  
FSSS = 0.47 µm (ASTM B330)

The % values given above and hereinafter refer to percentages by weight.

### Example 2

2 kg of WO<sub>3</sub> blue were converted to tungsten carbide in a sinter furnace as described in Example 1, operations being carried out in this case at temperatures up to 700°C under process gas during the cooling phase before the furnace was allowed to cool to room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>:

25  $C_{\text{total}} = 5.89\%$                        $C_{\text{free}} < 0.02\%$   
O = 0.41%                      N = 0.07%  
30 FSSS = 0.32 µm (ASTM B330)

The powder thus obtained underwent a thermal after-treatment in the sliding-batt kiln for 40 minutes at 1,400°C, the carburizing atmosphere in the furnace being sufficient for the carbon content of the tungsten carbide to approximate the theoretical. The powder obtained therefrom (Fig. 2) was characterised by the following analytical values:

$C_{\text{total}} = 6.08\%$                        $C_{\text{free}} < 0.03\%$   
 $O = 0.23\%$                        $N = 0.05\%$   
 $FSSS = 0.40 \mu\text{m}$  (ASTM B330)

### Example 3

Operations were carried out in a similar way to Example 2 except that fine-particle tungstic acid ( $FSSS = 0.40 \mu\text{m}$ , according to ASTM B330) was used for carburization in this case. Initially, the material was calcined in situ at 500°C for 3 hours, then operations were continued as in Example 2. On the basis of the SEM photograph (Fig. 3), it is evident that the powder exhibits little agglomeration.

$C_{\text{total}} = 6.08\%$                        $C_{\text{free}} < 0.03\%$   
 $O = 0.24\%$                        $N = 0.05\%$   
 $FSSS = 0.29 \mu\text{m}$  (ASTM B330)

### Example 4

Operations were carried out in a similar way to Example 3 except that, prior to the high temperature stage, 0.6%  $\text{Cr}_3\text{C}_2$  and, in order to guarantee the theoretical carbon content, a calculated amount of carbon was added to the carbide powder. The following powder characteristic data were obtained:

$C_{\text{total}} = 6.14\%$                        $C_{\text{free}} < 0.02\%$   
 $O = 0.36\%$                        $N = 0.05\%$

FSSS = 0.37  $\mu\text{m}$  (ASTM B330)

A fine-particle powder exhibiting little agglomeration was obtained (Fig. 4).

5     **Example 5**

Operations were carried out as in Example 3 except that the tungstic acid used had a particle size of 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  (measured by FSSS, according to ASTM B330). The powder obtained was hardly agglomerated at all and was present in fine-particle form. The  
10     following characteristic data were obtained:

$C_{\text{total}}$	= 6.07%	$C_{\text{free}}$	<0.04%
O	= 0.20%	N	= 0.05%
FSSS = 0.30 $\mu\text{m}$ (ASTM B330)			

15     **Determination of lattice strain and coherence length**

The lattice strain and coherence length of all the powder materials was determined according to the method of BE Warren and BL Averbach, J. Appl. Phys.21 (1950)  
20     595 and plotted in a diagram. In addition, this method was also applied to tungsten carbide powders of different origin (powders S, N, T and D) and plotted in the diagram (Fig. 1). The values are summarised in the Table below:

**Table 1**

<b>Material</b>	<b>Lattice strain (%)</b>	<b>Coherence length (nm)</b>
Example 1	0.06	30.8
Example 2	0.07	72
Example 3	0.07	72
Example 4	0.07	56.5
Example 5	0.08	64.5
S	0.06	180
N	0.09	150
T	0.10	43.3
D	0.07	150

**Hardmetal tests:**

5

Hardmetal tests were performed on some materials, doping being carried out with  $\text{Cr}_3\text{C}_2$  and VC, with a cobalt proportion of 10% in the hardmetal mixture. To this end the hardmetal mixtures were ground for 4 hours in hexane in the attritor (0.5 l; 300 g hardmetal mixture with 2,100 g of hardmetal balls, size 3-4 mm) and sintered under vacuum for 45 minutes at 1,380°C. Some hardmetal characteristic values are summarised in Table 2.

10

### Table 2

Example	Density g/cm <sup>3</sup>	H <sub>c</sub> (kA/m)	4πσ <sub>s</sub> (μTm <sup>3</sup> /kg)	HV <sub>30</sub> (kg/mm <sup>2</sup> )	A-porosity
1	14.48	41.4	16.6	1925	A04 ISO 4505
2	14.39	42.2	15.4	2001	A04 ISO 4505
3	14.42	42.2	15.3	2001	A04 ISO 4505
5	14.44	43.0	14.5	2010	A02-A04 ISO 4505

HC = magnetic coercivity, measured with a Foerster Koerzimat 1.096, in kA/m

5  $4\pi\sigma_s$  = magnetic saturation, measured with a Foerster Koerzimat 1.096, in  $\mu\text{Tm}^3/\text{kg}$

HV<sub>30</sub> = Vickers hardness, 30 kg load, in kg per mm<sup>2</sup>.

10 The carbide powder from Example 1 which was not stabilised at high temperature, had an increased tendency to secondary grain growth, whereas the other materials which were heat-treated, exhibited a homogeneous structure (Fig. 5 and 6).

**Patent claims**

1. A process for the preparation of tungsten carbides by gas phase carburization of tungsten powders and/or suitable tungsten precursor compound powders at temperatures above 850°C, characterised in that the carburizing gas phase used is a CO<sub>2</sub>/CO mixture with a CO<sub>2</sub> content which is above the Boudouard equilibrium content corresponding to the carburization temperature.
2. A process according to claim 1, characterised in that carburization is carried out with a carbon activity from 0.4 to 0.9.
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the carburization temperature is 900 °C to 950 °C.
4. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that carburization is carried out at carburization temperature over a period from 4 to 10 hours.
5. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the precursor compound used is tungsten oxide powder.
6. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the tungsten carbides undergo a heat treatment at 1,150°C to 1,800 °C after carburization.
7. Tungsten carbide, characterised by a relationship between coherence length x and lattice strain y according to the formula
 
$$y < (-4.45 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ nm}^{-1} \cdot x + 0.113) \%$$
8. Tungsten carbide according to claim 8, wherein coherence length x and lattice strain y fulfil the following conditions:

$$y < (-2.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ nm}^{-1} \cdot x + 0.1025) \% \text{ and}$$

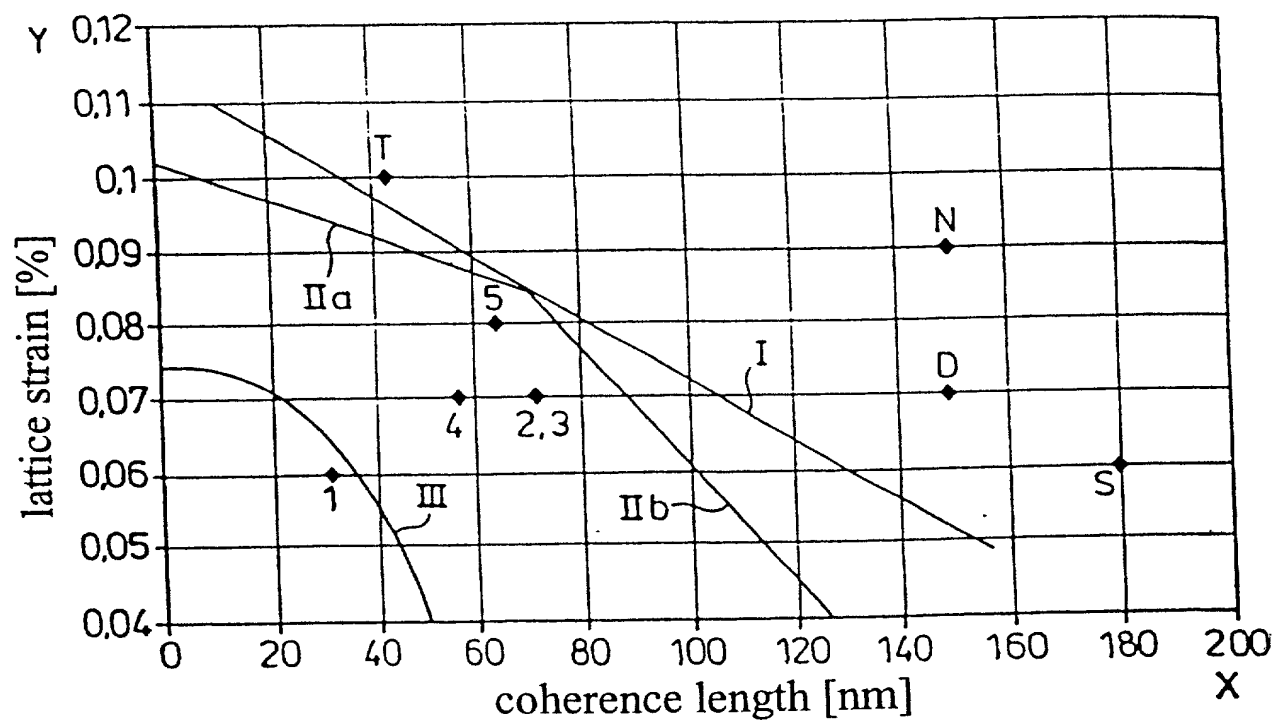
$$y < (-7.78 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ nm}^{-1} \cdot x + 0.1395) \%.$$

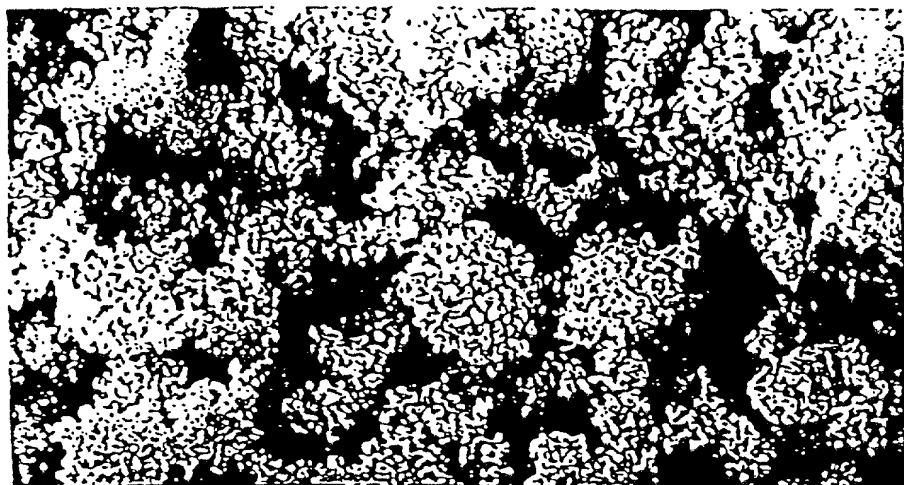
- 5      9.      Sintered parts prepared from tungsten carbides according to any one of claims 1 to 8.

03834567 051001  
T00T50 29572850



Fig. 1



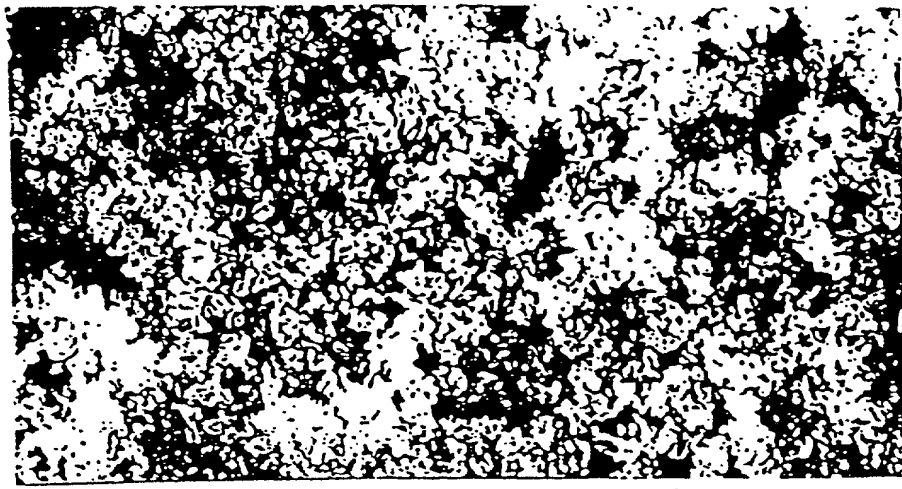
**Fig. 2**

8689 20KV X5,000 1 $\mu$ m WD16

**Fig. 3**

8690 20KV X5,000 1 $\mu$ m WD16

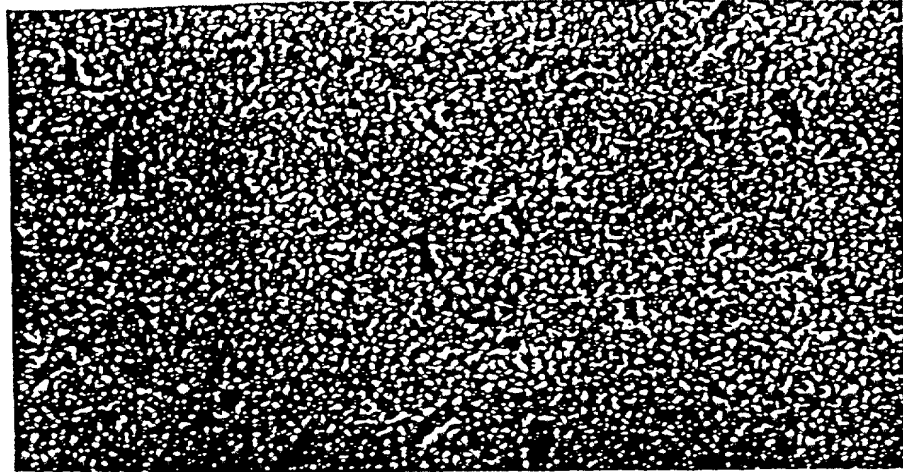
**Fig. 4**



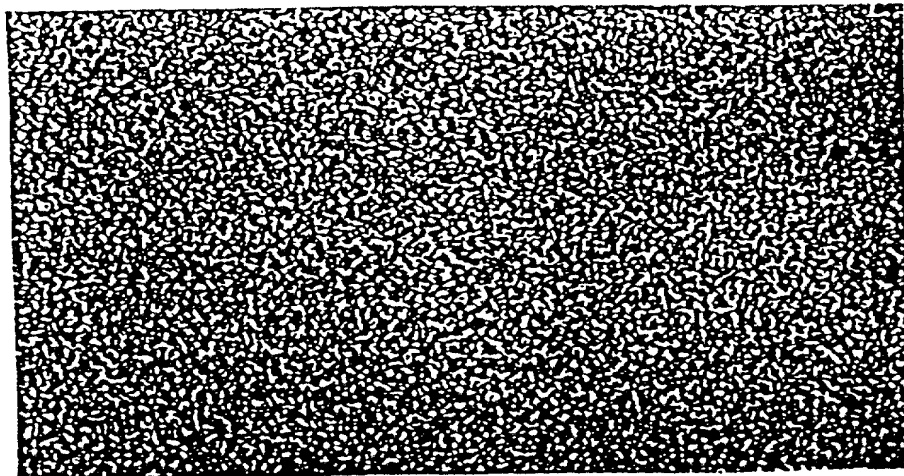
8837 20KV X5,000

1 $\mu$ m

WD15

**Fig. 5**

9011 20KV X3,000 10  $\mu$ m WD8

**Fig. 6**

9010 20KV X3,000 10  $\mu$ m WD16

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought

on the invention entitled

**METHOD FOR PRODUCING WOLFRAM CARBIDES BY GAS-PHASE CARBURETION**

the specification of which is attached hereto,

or was filed on **November 3, 1999**

as a PCT Application Serial No. **PCT/EP99/08373**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s), the priority(ies) of which is/are to be claimed:

**198 52 459.5**  
(Number)

**Germany**  
(Country)

**November 13, 1998**  
(Month/Day/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose the material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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09834567-051001

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

JOSEPH C. GIL, Patent Office Registration Number 26,602  
ARON PREIS, Patent Office Registration Number 29,426  
LYNDANNE M. WHALEN, Patent Office Registration Number 29,457  
THOMAS W. ROY, Patent Office Registration Number 29,582  
RICHARD E. L. HENDERSON, Patent Office Registration Number 31,619  
GODFRIED R. AKORLI, Patent Office Registration Number 28,779  
N. DENISE BROWN, Patent Office Registration Number 36,097  
NOLAND J. CHEUNG, Patent Office Registration Number 39,138  
DIDERICO VAN EYL, Patent Office Registration Number 38,641  
CAROLYN M. SLOANE, Patent Office Registration Number 44,339  
JAMES R. FRANKS, Patent Office Registration Number 42,552  
JACKIE ANN ZURCHER, Patent Office Registration Number 42,251

all of Bayer Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741

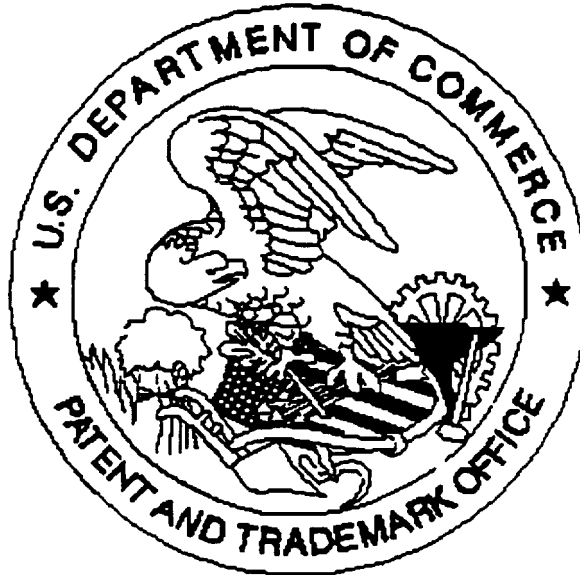
Send Correspondence To:  
Patent Department  
Bayer Corporation  
100 Bayer Road  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741

Direct Telephone Calls To:

(412) 777-2349

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR Gerhard Gille		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Gerhard Gille</i>	DATE 28.03.01
RESIDENCE D 38640 Goslar, Germany		CITIZENSHIP German	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS Spitalstr. 8, D 38640 Goslar, Germany DEX			
FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR Benno Gries		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Benno Gries</i>	DATE 29.3.2001
RESIDENCE D 38302 Wolfenbüttel, Germany		CITIZENSHIP German	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS An der Tongrube 10 A, D 38302 Wolfenbüttel, Germany DEX			
FULL NAME OF THIRD INVENTOR Jörg Bredthauer		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Jörg Bredthauer</i>	DATE 28.03.01
RESIDENCE D 53123 Bonn, Germany		CITIZENSHIP German	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS Carl-Schurz-Str. 20, D 53123 Bonn, Germany DEX			
FULL NAME OF FOURTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SIXTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SEVENTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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